Yozakura Quartet 3

Suzuhito Yasuda

Ballantine Books

DEL REY

TURF WAR!

The humans and demons who share the town of Sakurashin must work together when a rival mayor and a strange mystery man decide to hit Sakurashin's demons where it hurts: by taking away their power. As Hime struggles to protect her town, the secrets of her own gifts are finally revealed!

Includes special extras after the story!

Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

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Yozakura Quartet

3

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Translated by Satsuki Yamashita
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Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

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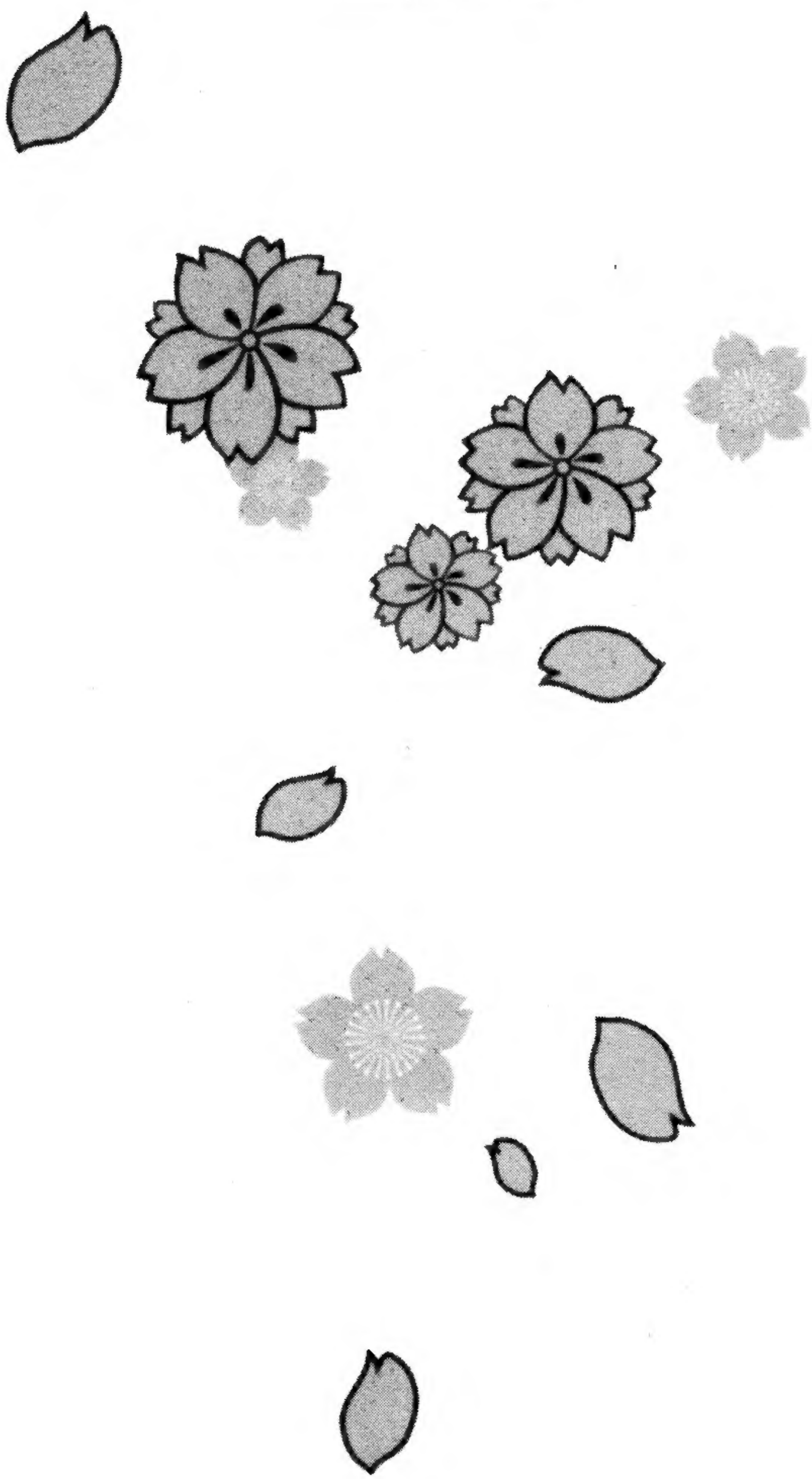
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A Note from the Author

I usually try to include an eating or sleeping scene in each chapter.
This is so I'll remember that these kids are still growing...
Actually, I just like seeing people eat and sleep.

Suzuhito Yasuda



Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Yozakura Quartet 3

Suzuhito Yasuda

CHARACTER PROFILE

Mariabell

Yuuhi Shinatsuhiko

An employee of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a satori—a demon that can read others' minds.

Ao Nanami

Kana Tatebayashi

Shidou Mizuki

Kyosuke Kishi

Mina Tatebayashi

Hime Yarizakura

Hime is the Mayor of Sakurashin Town. She is in high school. She has superhuman abilities.

Akina Hiizumi

The director of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. He is a normal human who has to deal with all the weirdness that occurs in the town.

Kotoha Isone

A part-time worker at the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a kododama user— someone who can conjure up anything she speaks.

YOZAKURA QUARTET

Juri

Yae Shinatsuhiko

Touka Kishi

Rin Azuma

Yozakura Quartet Contents

005 . . . . Thorny Road (Part 2)
037 . . . . Thorny Road (Part 3)
067 . . . . Thorny Road (Part 4)
103 . . . . Thorny Road (Part 5)
135 . . . . Thorny Road (Part 6)
175 . . . . Thorny Road (Part 7)
212 . . . . Extras

Thanks for having a party for me tonight! I couldn't be happier!!

SHINE SHINE

Thanks, everyone!

Who brought the alcohol here?!

DRUNK

I will remember this feeling while I work hard during the upcoming election.

MUNCH MUNCH

12th Night: Thorny Road (Part 2)



Phew.

RUB
RUB
ホニ
ホニ
スヤスヤ

It's okay.

She's our guest.

Sorry we made a mess.

Are you okay?

Oh, Hime.

ﾅﾝ
CREAK

Sigh.

What's wrong?

Just remembering when I was younger.

When I was her age, I was fired up to improve the town.

But I wonder if I'm as fit to be a mayor as my grandmother was.

You're not confident in your abilities?

Zzz

The Serpent lies coiled in Naples.

Great People of the World

I've been working nonstop until now.

Well...

You're a piece-of-crap mayor!

Work hard, just like your grandmother.

I don't know.

. . . .

. . . . . .

But I do know I'm tired.

SIGH はあ……

I enjoy living in this town.

I'm sure everyone else would agree with me.

Don't worry.

There's no point in being down!

WEE HEE HEE!

Oh, you're cheered up already?

I see.

Like she said.

Maybe.

ZZZ

That's true.

I keep things simple. Always have, ever since I was a kid!

You should know by now!

This is a town with demons and humans living side by side, so it may be hard.

I still have many things I want to do as a mayor.

Yup!

I'll make our town a better place to live next year, and even better the year after that!

But it's a good challenge!

Next year...and the year after that, huh?

.....

.....

?

Ack! Stop!

Not there!!

Tell me.

What is it?

POKE

POKE

POKE

ギャはは HA HA HA HA

What? Why do you look so serious?

Huh? Nothing.

?

Maybe this is the perfect opportunity to say it.

.....

?

What?

The Seven Pillars...

...are going to bloom?!

What do you mean?

Why now?

What's going to happen?!

.....

Long ago, the success rate of tuning the demons was extremely low.

Origi-nally...

Whenever we failed, they'd disappear from both worlds, which meant a real death.

...the Seven Pillars weren't from this world.

.....

And it was my ancestors, the Hiizumi family, who wanted to do something about that.

So they worried about the Margin of error and the right coordinates.

They thought if they addressed that, they could tune more successfully.

Their names were Oushu and Enyou Hiizumi.

Those two took up the Oyakume mantle.

Two men raised their hands.

Oushu tuned Enyou with his consent and sent him to the Afterworld.

He carried the hope of all demons.

...seven enormous trees suddenly appeared.

And one day, a year later...

It was the exact coordinates demons needed for tuning.

This created the spiritual sakura—the "Seven Pillars" that existed in both worlds.

Enyou half-tuned these large trees to this world.

Either way, the success rate of tuning went way up, thanks to the Seven Pillars.

Demons and people came to gather around the Seven Pillars...

So the Hiizumi family assumed he hadn't expected to return.

We couldn't contact him from our world or find out what happened to him.

But Enyou never came back after that.

...

...and created the Sakurashin Town we have today.

7

GST

Firstly...

When the Seven Pillars bloom, what then?!

...

I'm the mayor. I know that already!

So what's going to happen?!

!

As a result, the demons living in the other world will flow into this one.

When the two dimensions' Seven Pillars merge, the two worlds merge, as well.

And secondly...

two dimensions are assimilating, so the dimensions' density will increase and probably affect the demons here.

They might lose control or, worst-case scenario, die.

...!

Hime...

.....

Why am I the only one who didn't know? How come you guys didn't tell me?!

.....

What? Everyone knew about this?!

Huh?

.....

...you're not a demon.

!

It's because...

So I think it's going to have an effect on me.

.....

...What about Kotoha? Kotoha's also not a demon!

But I've fallen before.

I thought I'd tell those who would be affected first.

.....

But...

Hime.

GRAB

I'm the Mayor! Why am I the last to know something so important?!

CLENCH

But... I'M...

Hime...

Answer me!!

Do you think I'm a crappy Mayor who just got the job because of my grandmother, like those other people do?!

I'M working hard as the Mayor!

.....

I thought it would be best if our office handled it.

I wanted to tell you earlier, but I thought it would just make you worry.

ピンポーン
DING DONG

ODD

. . . . . .

Hime, calm down, okay?

Some-one's at the door.

. . . . . .

?

Yes?

This isn't a good time.

SLIDE ガラララン

I'll get it.

I'll go, too.

TMD の二の二TMD

Good evening.

PEEK

GRIN

?!


!
ア∞
SST
THUD
ゲッ GRIP
Do
What the heck is this thing?!
Ouch!
Waah.

Yes!

Kyosuke!

GRAB !?

I guess it can't be helped! I'll let you use the Dragon Spear!

Head to the training hall!!

Follow me, you monster!!

DASH

ボッ

THROW

Gotcha!

Take that!

WHACK

CRASH

Eeeek!

UGH

WOOSH

ずざざ

CRASH

Ninth formation.

JUMP

Come on!

WOOSH

JUMP

GRAB

"Cloud Slice!!"

CRASH

Seventy-first Formation. "Chidori!!"

THUD

THUD

Fiftieth Formation. "Moon Phase!"

This will finish it!

The last formation.

SWING

I can do this!

Gah!

TURN

CLONP

Huh?!

Hime!

DAAASH

だだだ

SPIN!!

"Great Fireworks!!"

...

ギィ

CREAK

HM.

I can't do it!

What is this thing, anyway?!

I knew it. You haven't mastered the Dragon Spear.

And...

.....

Huh?!

...Morino, the mayor of Kohime's town!

And you're his secretary, Shinozuka!

What are you doing to Kohime?!

Huh?! You're...

STING

!

STING

!

Uh. Who are you?

Nice to meet you?

BEEP

BEEP

Heh.

I would like to introduce myself, but I'M pretty busy.

BEEP

I'M sorry, but I'll do my business quickly and leave.

What the heck?

RRRUUMMMMBBBLLLLE

The atmo-sphere.

SST

Large Demon Barrier...

THUD

...commence!!

Ao! Kyosuke! Touka! Are you okay?!

ビリリ BZZT

Urrgh!

ビリリ BZZT

Whoa, it works pretty well.

BZZT

BZZT

!

Urgh!!

BZZT

ゴゴゴ

Urg.

HiMe!!

Urgh!

Hmph.

HiMe!
Get up!

Hey, are you okay? Why are you affected?

I said it responds to demonic energy.

Didn't I?

Well...

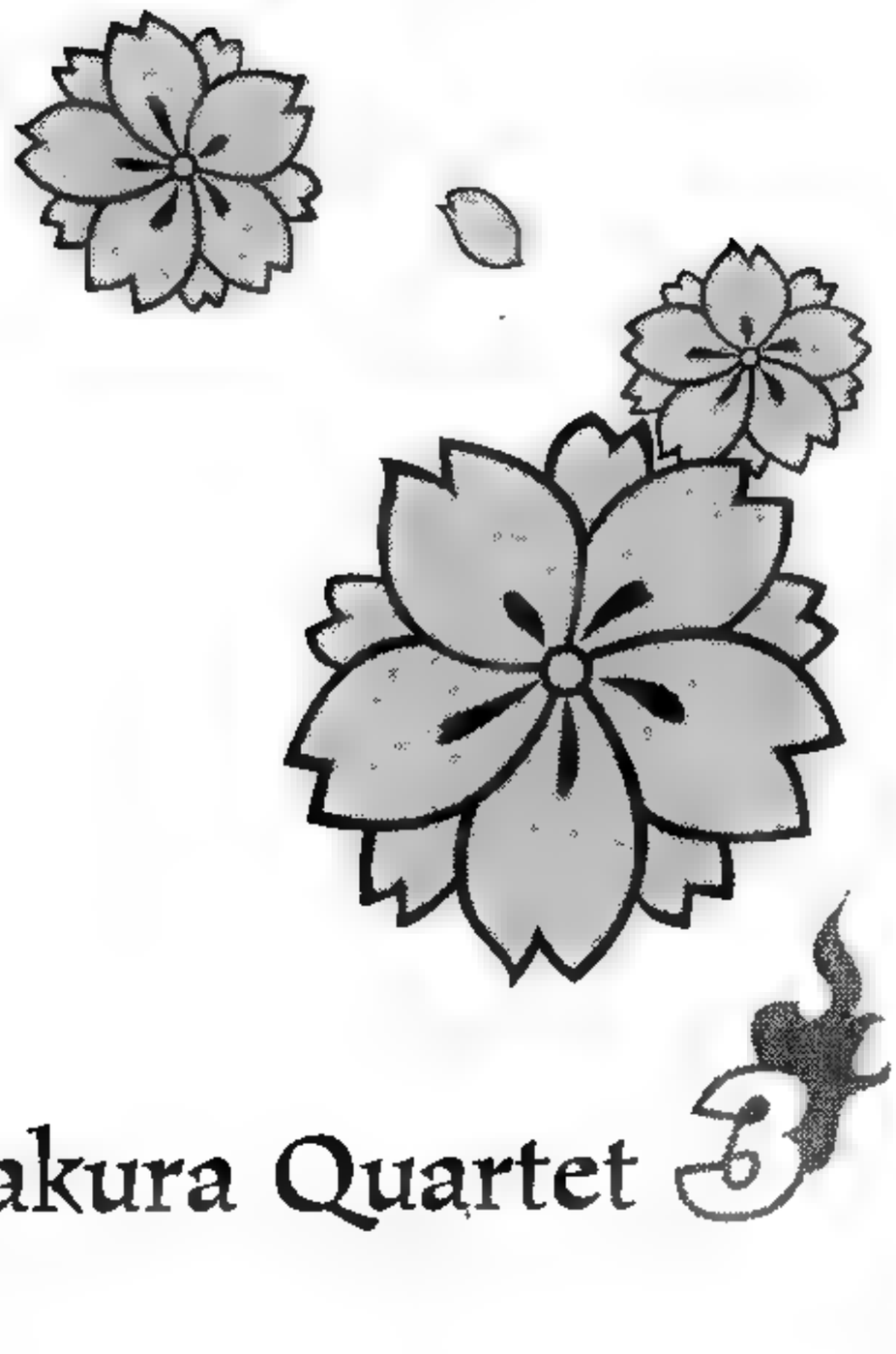
That means...No way!

What?

Hime's a demon?!

BZZT BZZT

Urgh!



Yozakura Quartet 3

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet



Age: 24

Hobbies:
Cruising with Yae

Favorites

Food:
Spicy food

Music Group:
ACIDMAN

Comedian:
Kirin

Uchi-P Member:
Azu-chan

Little-Known Fact:
She sleeps ten hours a day.

I said it responds to demonic energy.

Didn't I?

Well...

No way!

What?

Hime's a demon?!

Urgh!



13th Night: Thorny Road (Part 3)



What does it mean? You're a demon?!

Urgh!

Hime!

Ugh.

If it responds to demonic energy...

...that thing should be weakened, too!

DASH

Hime, it's impossible!!

Kohime!!

GRAB

We'll discuss it later.

Give back...

GRIP

...too MUCH MUSCLE.

...there's just...

But unfor-tunately...

True.

CRASH

ナシ

...Dragon Spear broke!!

The...

We should leave it to our hyper-active Mayor.

BUZZ

FIRE PREVENTION

It's important for everyone to participate in these things.

They should leave the night patrol to the young ones.

TMD

Sheesh.

Strange?

CRASH

I'm going to complain!

Hold it. Don't you think it's strange?

THUD

CRASH

How rowdy! It's her house again!

Huh?

THUD

What the...?

Whoa!

Hime-chan!

Oh!

Granny Kiku?

THUD

Gotcha!

Urgh!

You both need to get out of here! Quick!

Yeah, right! I can't leave you...

Old man Jinroku.

What's all this racket? Why are you so beat up?

BOOM

...here.

What?

WOOSH

WHACK

ゴ"

ゴ"

ゴ"

RRRUUUMMMBBBBLLLEEEE

ゴ"

ゴ"

ゴ"

Eek!

THUD

...attack my people!

GGRRRIP

Don't you dare...

GRIP

ズズズ DRAG

ゴゴゴ

Gah!

CRASH

GRIP

Hime-chan!

ズ ぃ ぃ STOMP

ズ ぃ ぃ STOMP

Grrgh.

THUD

Urgh.

GRIP

ズゥゥゥ

You're brave.

But we'll leave it at that.

I'M not so evil that I'd hurt a little girl.

Hey, you! Monster! I'll take you on!

Hime!

ISONA BANK

000

SST

First:

Pull this kid out of the race for Mayor...

...and reelect the current Mayor.

!

Give me back Kohime!

I will.

On two conditions.

And second:

Morino!

.....

We'll never do that!

We're not negoti-ating.

Look at the position you're in.

!

...directly to me.

Turn over...

the Mayorship of Sakurashin...

The deadline is tonight.

We'll be waiting for you at the main street.

.....!

.....

SHINK

Hime!

Unh.

BZZT
BZZT
.....
Urrggh.
Hime, are you okay?
Hime!
Why didn't you tell anyone...
...that you're a demon?
.....
SST
Hello.
Yae-san!
!
Urg.
Hime!
BZZT
BZZT
TMD

FOOSH
スゥ…

!

FOOSH
スゥ…

The pressure is gone.

Yae-san?

I didn't get rid of the barrier.

I just weakened the energy of the demons in this town.

Fresh Spring.

WOOSH

DIZZY

Huh?

And because the entire town's energy went down...

I eased the pressure.

And it's not like I gave anything, so my brother shouldn't complain.

ZSST

...

...the memory I sealed six years ago...

SHINK

It'll come back.

Memory?

This...

...blocks most of your demon powers.

.....

SOB SOB

It's so big, and it's on my neck.

The scar.

SOB

TEAR

How do you feel, Hime?

.....

Thank you, Yae-san.

Well, her powers are too strong and this is the only alternative.

SHINK

Sheesh.

SOB

SOB

TMD

TMD

SOB

TMD

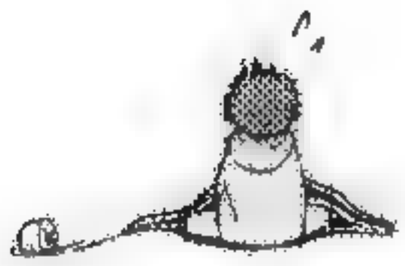
TMD.

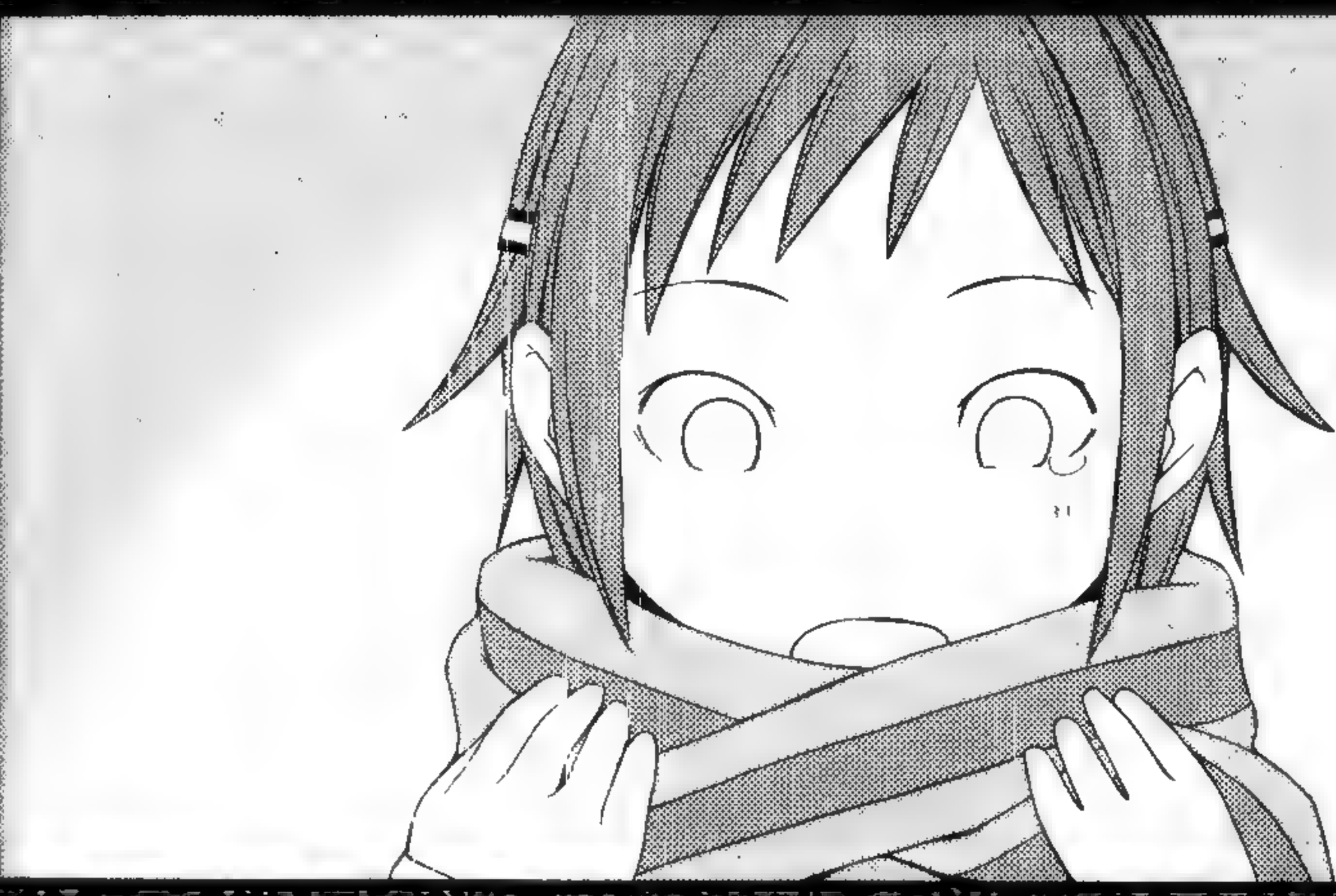
SOB

Stop crying already! You're our future mayor, aren't you?!

Urgh.

SOB





Hey, let go!

No! It's fine! >_<

TUG TUG

Let me fix it.

TUG

SQUEEZE

It's long.

Huh?!

ガーン

SHOCK

With that wrapped around you, no one will see the scar!

Hey, it looks pretty good.

Well, if you say so.

It's fine!

I like it as it is!

That way, I think I can see things from both a human and demon's point of view!

...I want you to erase that I'm a demon from everyone's memory!

Starting today, the day I take over as Mayor...

Yae-san.

I have a favor to ask.

HM?

...his memory of that scarf you're wearing.

.....

It's no problem.

But *all* memories that relate to the fact that you're a demon will be sealed away.

For example...

This...

...is what I've prepared for.

I don't mind. Please do it.

So you'll just deal with everything on your own?

.....

You always handled things on your own, even when we were small.

So I think I was trying...

to do the same thing.

Sorry, Akina.

I re-member now.

But...

Hime—

...that about you.

Because I liked...

Akina, please...

TAP

I can't handle this on my own.

.....

Please.

...help...

...Kohime and this town.

We'll take care of Hime-chan.

You guys do what you can.

Okay, stop right there.

Whoa!

WRAP WRAP

DROP

Leave it to me.

One, two, three.

Juri-san.

Oh, Hime's daily memo.

.....

FLAP

HM?

WOO WOO WOO

XX 16th Sunny

Suzuki-san on Third Street contacted me about the family dog, who ran away. I was asked to get in touch immediately when we find the dog.

Granny Yoshihara caught a cold. I told her to go see a doctor if it lingered. I should stop by tomorrow, too. I should also tell everyone in the shopping arcade that it's gotten hot, so they should be careful about food poisoning.

A new resident moved into Kitayama-san's condominiume on First Street had a fire. Luckily, it was small. Second Street. I went to say hello and also told them to make sure they lock their doore.

Kohime arrived. I would like her to become a great mayor, but I'm a little worried... First, she needs to win the election. We're having a party for her tonight. Old Man Jinroku was full of energy again today. (Too much energy). I was relieved to see that hi legs were doing pretty well.

.....

SST

HIME MEMO

WRITE
WRITE
WRITE
WRITE
WRITE
WRITE
.....
CLOMP
SQUEAK
やっぱ、たけど、最後には全部解決しましたの
Leave it to us!
WHAP

Yozakura Quartet 3

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Age: Unknown

Hobbies:
Making Mariabell cosplay

Favorites

Food:
Anything made with flour

Music Group:
Akiyuki Nosaka

Comedian:
Nasu Nakanishi

Uchi-P Member:
Tet-chan

Little-Known Fact:
He is weak against sunlight.



13th Night: Thorny Road (Part 3) END

Fighting Strategy

SLAM!

WARM

WARM

Okay, you guys! Is everyone showered and ready?

I'm going to review our strategy!

It's a new car, so please be nice to it.

Shidou-san will drive the police car!

.....

Hey, are you guys listening?!

FLAP

Horse Team

Bear Team

Ao, Touka, and I will do something about the barrier!

Akina and Kyosuke will rescue Kohima! That's everything!

.....

Yeah.

Akina! Kyosuke!

VROOOM

Don't do anything stupid!

Yeah!

We're off, but until we get the barrier down, be careful!

Really care-ful!

Yeah.

Okay.

Let's go.

VRROOOOM

Ha

PEEK

.....

SLAM

Yeah.

Heh.

They said don't do anything stupid.

They don't get it, do they?

This is exactly when we need to do something stupid!

Right?!

I agree.



14th Night
Thorny Road
(Part 4)

I said we'd take care of the barrier.

VROOOM

7"

But I honestly don't know how.

What should we do?

VROOM

VROOM

VROOM

.....

BITE

ガリ

I guess.

Maybe he activated a switch far away, using his phone.

That man used his cell just before the barrier.

Hmm.

And why would that old man have it?

Why would there be such a device?

Inves-tigation depends on foot-work!

But how?

We need to find clues.

VROOM

Kotoha-chan?

Huh?

Sorry.

Huh?

We should go everywhere and get information.

LOOM

RING RING
BOOOOO

Was that Kotoha?

?

ひえええええ
AAAGHHHH!

She's okay. She's simultaneously sleeping, crying, and eating.

THROW THROW

Hello. How's Hime doing?

BEEP

Hello?

Hello, this is Juri.

ぐぅぐぅ ZZZ

ばくばく MUNCH MUNCH

すんすん SOB SOB

It's so quiet.

Oh. No wonder.

And I had the townspeople evacuate to the community center.

Hold on.

It's a little hard to explain.

Are you near the town border?

Umm.

Says you, Kyosuke.

Isn't it safer for them to get out of town?

Com-munity center?

. . . . . .

Try going out.

Go ahead.

Here we go!

Okay.

. . . . . .

I see.

We can't muster the will to step outside.

That's right.

We can't leave.

Or more like...

Simply that she convinced people that things were natural when they really didn't add up.

You never thought Hime-chan having superpowers was odd, right?

Now that you mention it.

When Yae sealed everyone's memory,

she also eliminated the feeling that things were strange.

What do you mean?

Who exactly is he?

UM, I don't know.

A land god can do amazing things.

So something similar was cast by that old man upon the townspeople.

So no one can leave.

.....

So we can't rely on Yae anymore.

Good luck! Buh-bye!

Oh, she hung up.

CLICK

AKA Torture Room

After lifting the pressure, Yae was called in by Yuuhi-san.

She's getting scolded as we speak. I can't get in touch with her.

You did it again.

SCOLDING FAN

Well...

BEEP

We need to find out where to go after them.

I don't think that will be necessary.

ZISH

Are you ready to surrender?

You guys are late.

.....

What?

The main street is one street over. Why are you here?

Huh?

Is this guy okay?

I see.

I made a mistake.

Oh well.

Right.

GRIP

I see you have no intention of surrendering.

Of course not.

Well, then.

SST

Hey!

Tenzaki Pottery

I'M COMING!

What's holding you up? Everyone left already!

Leave me alone!

What is that?

Leave it!

ばっ

DASH

Okay, let's go!

L

TURN

Whoa, almost forgot.

Hey!

But I wonder if Hime-chan will be okay?

.....

...

She won't die even if you kill her.

You must be loved by the towns-people, loved by the town...

Listen, Hime.

Don't forget.

...and loved by the dragon.

...

Oh.

Mn.

WAKING

You have to rest.

You took a bad beating.

Owww.

Have some Milk.

Oh, okay.

PHEW

Everyone's evacuated, don't worry.

Ah!

So, what's the situation? Where is everyone?

Beating?

SAD

I'm not loved by the towns-people or the dragon.

What should I do? I caused trouble for all the townspeople. And my Dragon Spear broke.

SIP

.....

I don't think I deserve to be.

Maybe I shouldn't be mayor anymore.

GASP

Why is it here?

Hidagyu?

ooo

.....!

Hurry up and get better so we can sing the town song!
Junta

Sakurashin Town Song

Everyone was worried and stopped by before they left.

Don't you remember? It's your seventh anniversary as mayor tomorrow.

All this stuff...

.....

I don't understand the stuff about the dragon, but I'm sure everyone loves you.

I have to go!

WOOSH

I need to protect the town!

Whoa.

TUG

RUB RUB

At least another hour.

I'm amazed at how fast you've healed, but you need to rest.

An hour?! I can't rest that long when Akina and the gang are working hard!

PUSH PUSH

I'm injured!

Ack!

フライング ボディープレス!

FLYING BODY PRESS!

Noooo!

THUMP

Leave it to them, Madame Mayor.

SST

It's okay.

You've worked hard these past six years.

They will forgive an hour.

.....

SOB

SOB

ぐぅぐぅ…

ZZZZ

WOOSH

がばっ

ooo

Now...

This side is settled.

...I wonder how that side is doing?

CRASH

Dang it!

CRASH

Whoa!

Thank you.

Nice to Meet you.

You're useless!

...we did trade business cards.

What the heck is up with this guy? I thought you knew him!

Well...

ゴ"

RRRUMMMBBLLLEEE

ゴ"

RRRUMMMBBLLLEEE

CRACK

ゴキ

Wouldn't know!

What's with his powers?! Why isn't he affected by the barrier?

I'm a human, as well.

The barrier doesn't affect me.

I'm not exactly a demon.

That's right.

A half-demon?! Could he be...?

I once fell, too.

Just like your kotodama user.

Whoa!

WOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOOSH

What is he doing here?!

CRASH

Eeeek!

CRASH

What?! Why are you fighting, too?!

I don't know!!

THUD

CRASH

That's the least of my worries right now!

Hey, is the barrier gone yet?!

Hello?

RING

RING

RING

Argh, what is it?!

Whoa, I got a phone call, too!

RING RING

WOOOOOOOOSH

WOOOOOSH

We need to get rid of that barrier, or both teams are dead meat!

We're trying, but—

Sheesh, you guys are useless.

Yeah. The barrier is affecting Mariabell. Hurry up and get rid of it.

Oh, the district mayor?

Hello?

Hello?

That's a huge range!!

...is somewhere within Tokyo.

Then here's a hint. The source of the barrier...

Where is it?!

By the way, Why did you call me?

Why not Akina-san?

Huh? Isn't it obvious?

WOOOOOOOOOSH

Find it??

Find it and destroy it.

It'll have to do.

It's because only *you* can find it.

Later.

...

GASP

Think, think.

Some-thing only I can do...

MUMBLE MUMBLE

BEEP

What did Yuuhi-san say?!

RUSTLE

は。
GASP

Reading Minds.

WOOOOOOOSH

Oh yeah!

Something only you can do...

FUMBLE
FUMBLE

But...

まく
MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH

妖力補給
REPLENISHING ENERGY

He expects you to read the minds of everyone in Tokyo?!

Oh my gosh.

It's a piece of cake!!

ぷっ
GULP

...that's over twelve million people!!

That was delicious!

ぱちん
CLAP

WOOSH

Satellite!!

Let's

g

o

o

o

o

o

o

o

o

o

!

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

Whoa!

BOOM



STING

Z!

Urgghhhhhhhh.

BLIP

Any problems so far?

I'm okay.

!

Ao, don't push yourself!

That was... No, I'll deal with it later!

Ao?!

WOOOOOOOOSH

Found it!

It's Chiyoda district... No, Minato district?! It's a really high place!!

Did you hear that?!

A high place?!

Nothing, sir.

VOOOSH

VOOSH

!!

It's within the city and a high place!

No more than that!

Stop!

Can't you be a little more specific?!

That's it!

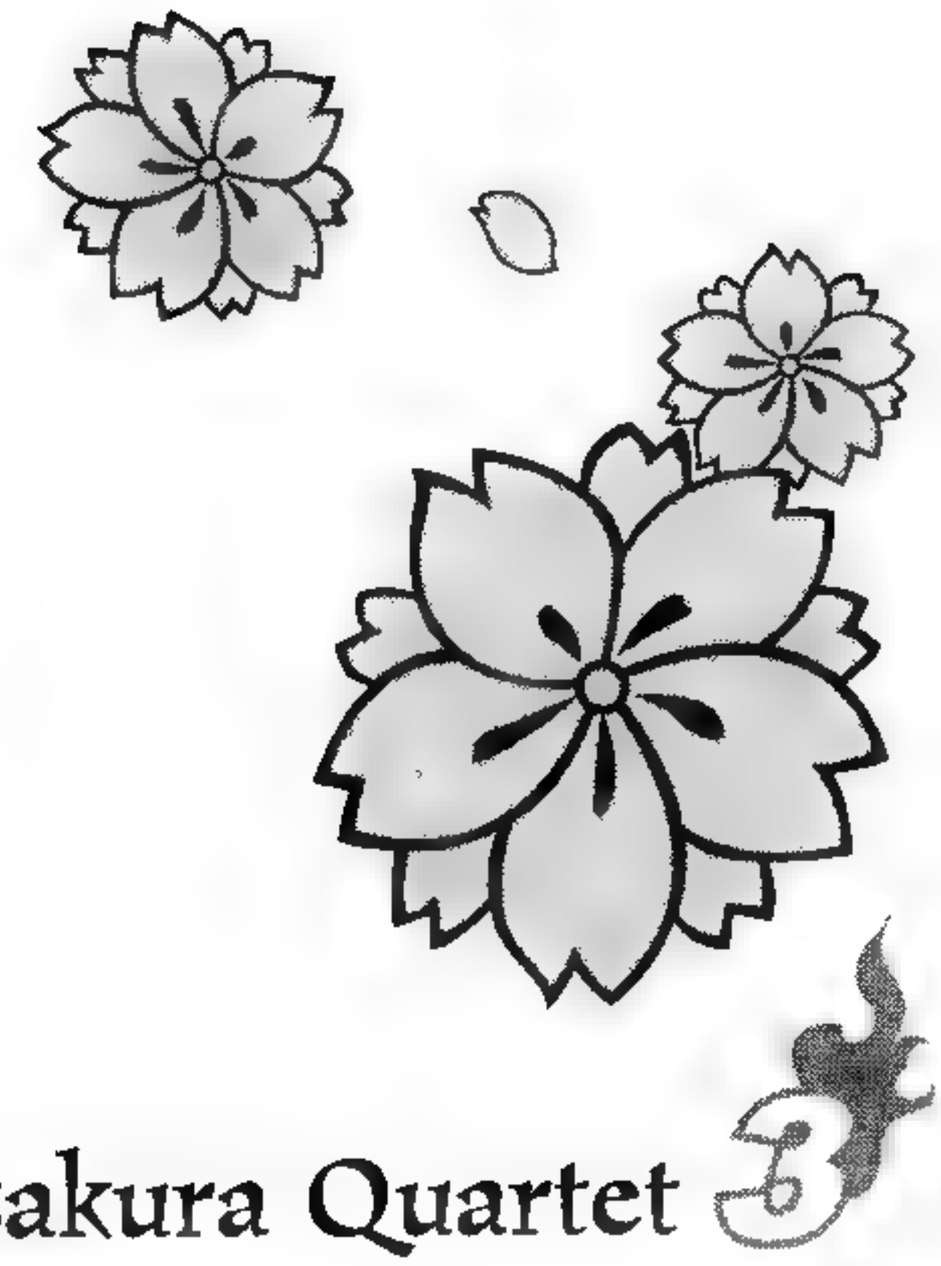
WOOOOSH

The only thing that could transmit the barrier across such a wide range!

The TV reception has been bad lately.

!


Tokyo
Tower!!



Yozakura Quartet

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

3



Mariabell

Age: 22

Hobbies:
Cooking

Favorites

Food:
Anything

Music Group:
Kazuyoshi Nakamura

Comedian:
Dayan

Uchi-P Member:
Parachute Troop

Little-Known Fact:
She likes Japanese food for breakfast (and gets mad if she doesn't get it).

I didn't have any early sketches of her.

WOOOOOSH

That's it!

Whaaaat?!

...Tokyo Tower!!

TA-DAH

The barrier is coming from...

Huh?!

You can't leave town!

Shidou-san, how long to get to Tokyo Tower?

You can't go there!

Okay.

As long as we know where it is, we can do something!

WOOOOSH

スポッ

PLOP

What?! Why?!

You just can't get out!

I'll explain later!

How about the 88MM cannon?

We can try to aim it from here.

SHEESH

Then what are we supposed to do?

It's too far! It only has a range of two kilometers*! It totally won't work!!

Urgh...

About eight kilometers

*Note: One kilometer is about thirteen city blocks.

...

WOOOOOSH

SCREECH

!

Akina! Hold on a little bit longer!!

Touka, give me cough drops!!

Huh?!

Okay!

Leave it to me!

You have an idea?

Okay, I trust you!

.....

Woooooo9!!

I'll get rid of that barrier for sure!!

Leave it to Me!

I should've used the shortcut.

It looks tiring.

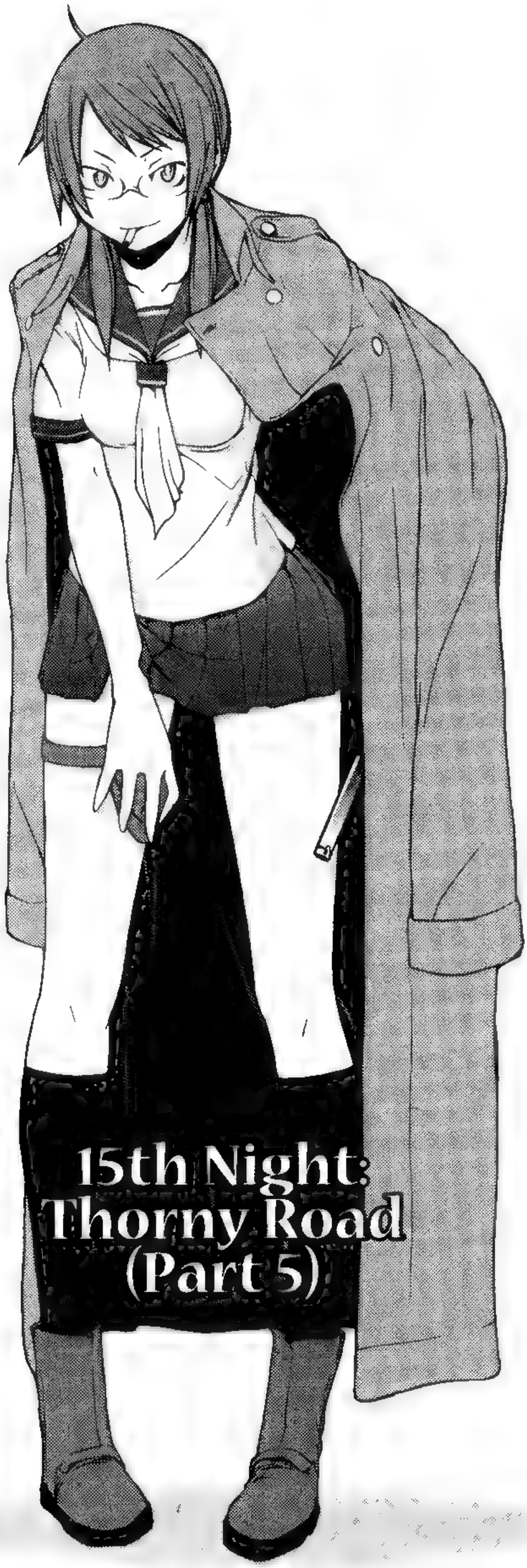
LICK

Sheesh!


CRUNCH

Shidou-san! Can you drive parallel to the railway?

Sure thing!



15th Night: Thorny Road (Part 5)


WOOSH
THUD
POST
Damn it!

Demon powers are that strong, huh?

"H" ZISH

Even weakened, you're still formidable.

HM.

CRUMBLE CRUMBLE

It's not me, it's the mayor.

I'M just following orders.

Why?!

Why are you guys after our town?!

.....

I'm his secretary. The Mayor's orders are absolute.

Right?

.....!

Why? Why is he doing this?!

.....

Your mayor, Morino.....

...he has a short temper, but he's never been a bad guy.

!

ZOOM

That...

GRAB

...is none of my business— or yours!

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

SQUEEZE

...

SQUEEZE

Urgh...

THUD

Gah!

Kyosuke!

Stay back!

!

You may have the powers of the oyakume, but you're still human!

Stay out of battles between demons!

SQUEEZE

If both of us go down here...

GRAB

But...

Akina!

Stay there!

Er.

...Who's going to protect...

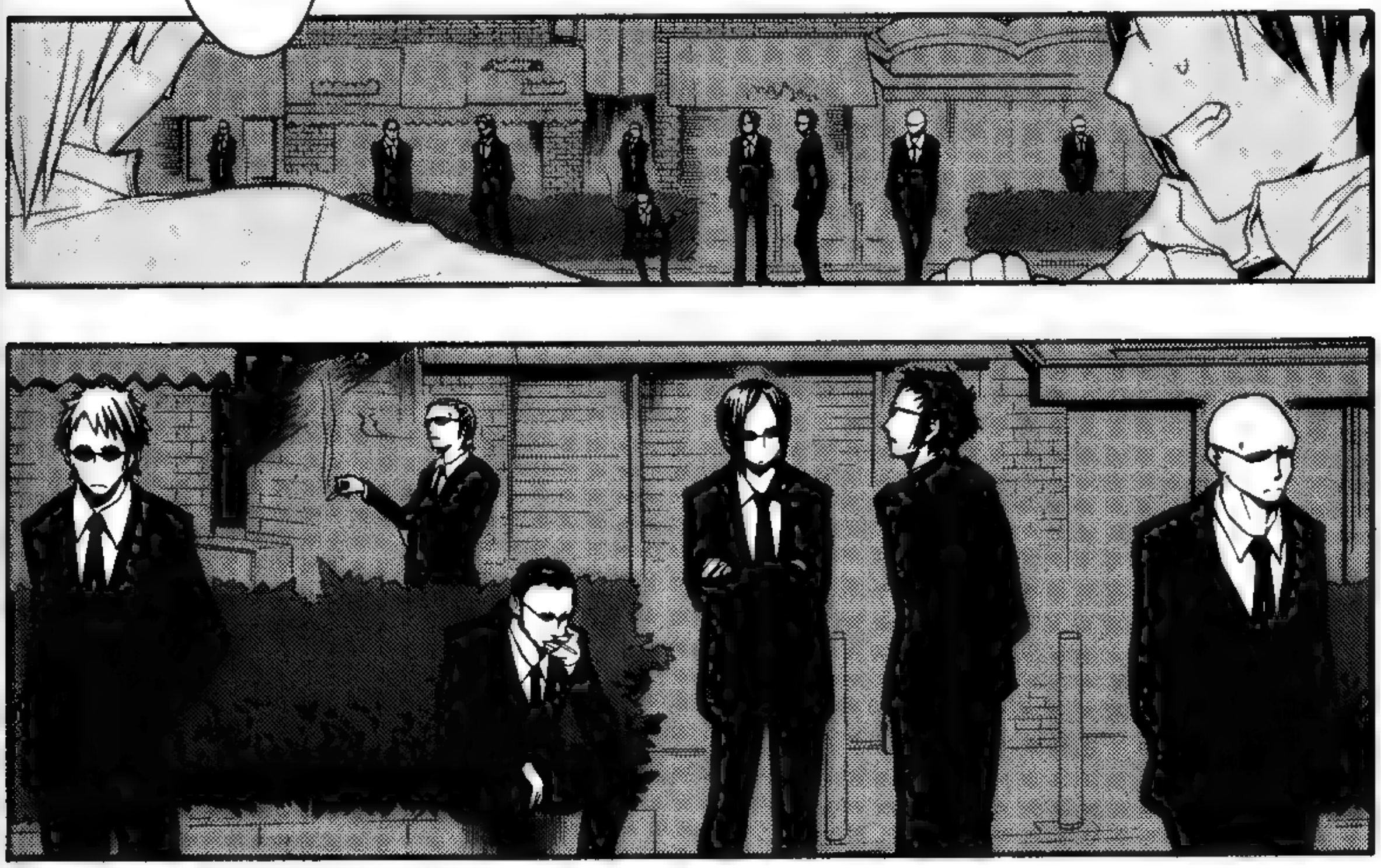
...this town, Kohime, and Hime-sama?!

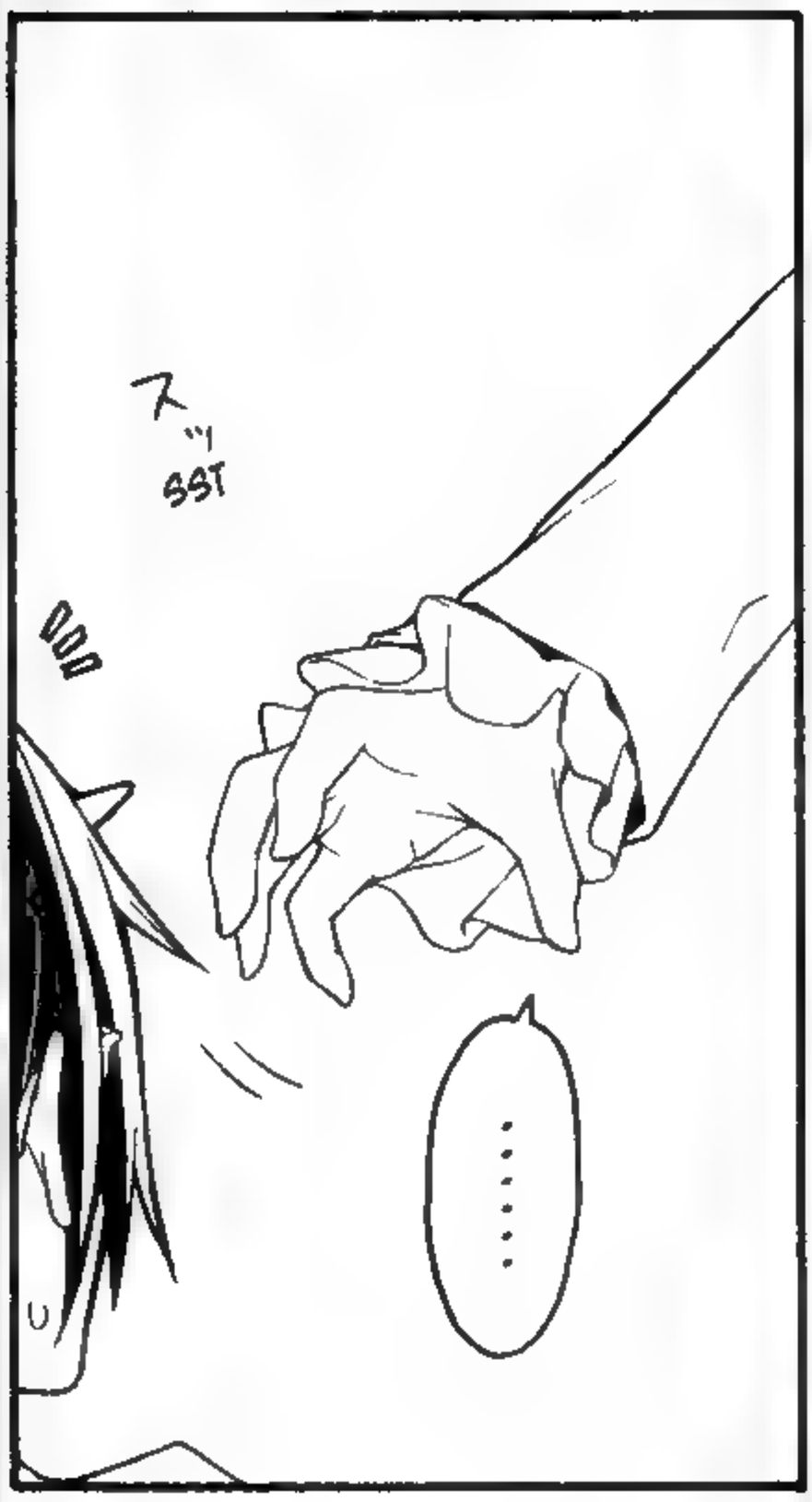
Damn it!

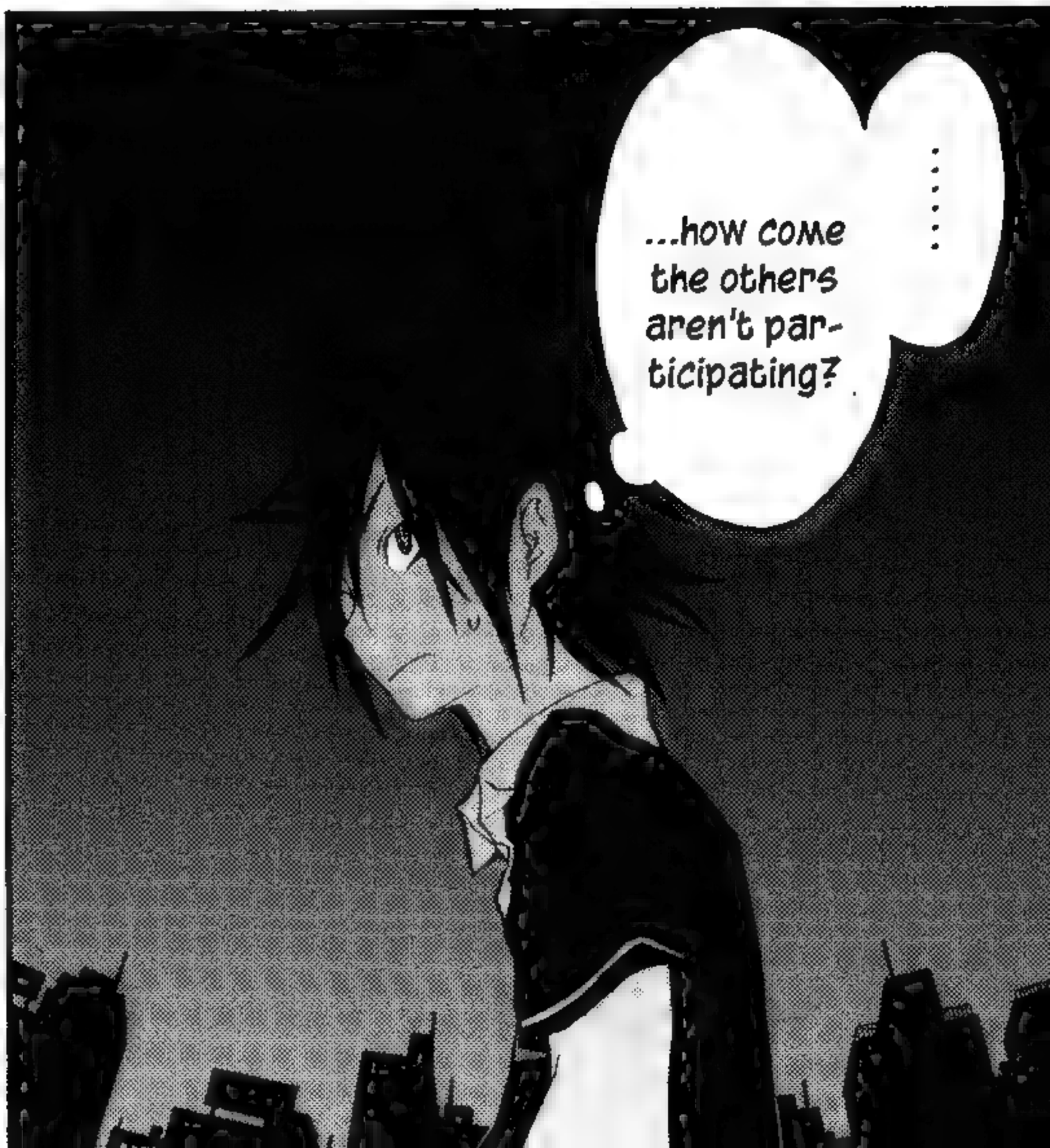
Oo

.....

But...







I hear that your previous mayor was a great person.

But the current mayor?

Hime-sama, huh?

Is she...

...worth the pain and suffering you're going through?

.....!

Kyosuke!

Noodles!

Give me noodles!

I'M hungry!
I'M hungry!

Kyosuke! You have to try to remember the good things!!

Think positive!

UMMM.

SOB SOB

.....

WRITE WRITE

CHUCK

Good job.

FIDGET FIDGET

ZZZZ

You need to hang in there, Hime-chan.

Oh.

PLOP

Carte

Wow, this is a picture from when we were in Okayama.

THUD

BONK

Urgh!

Gah!

...I have to fulfill my duties.

GRIP

PUSH

Either way...

FLASH

Tuning!!

CRACKLE

7th

FOOSH

Run for now!

We need to wait until the barrier is gone.

DAAAAAASH

ドゴドゴドゴドゴ

Akina!

Urgh.

GLARE!!

ばっ

WOOSH

GRAB

KLUNK

Kyosuke!

But we don't know if the barrier is going to be there.

Kotoha said she'll get rid of it for sure.

You know what that means. She's a—

Oh!

We're going after them.

SST

DAAAASH

DASH

Darn it!

だ゛だ゛だ゛

ばっ
DASH

Whoa.

KA-POW

ゴロン ゴロン
ROLL ROLL

OW!

Hey, Kyosuke!!

ZISH

Urgh.

Kyosuke!

CRACK

You caught up already?!

It's over.

ZISH

SCREECH

BAM

SCREEEEEEEEEECH

THUD

Hurry!!!

Get in!!

WOOSH

ゴゴゴ
VROOM
Urg.
You should be thanking Ao-chan!
No way!
WOOOOOOOOSH
Thanks, Shidou-san! You saved our lives!!
Oh no! He's knocked out!
SCREECH
Whoa!
レベル
WEAK
ZZZ
She used her last bit of energy to find out where you two were!
I see.

CLANG

Kotoha-chan is behind us!

Huh?

CLANG

Where's Kotoha?!

Did they get her?

CLANG

Huh?

CLANG

WOOOOOOSH

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

She's coming!!

CLANG

CLANG

Behind us?!

CLANG

KABOOM




What the...?!
A...
...rail gun?!
VOOOSH
Ack! My throat hurts!!
SCREECH
WOOOOSH

If I say it's going to hit, it will!

WOOOOOOSH

She's gonn
shoot that
from here?

There's no way she can pull it off!

GRIP

.....

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

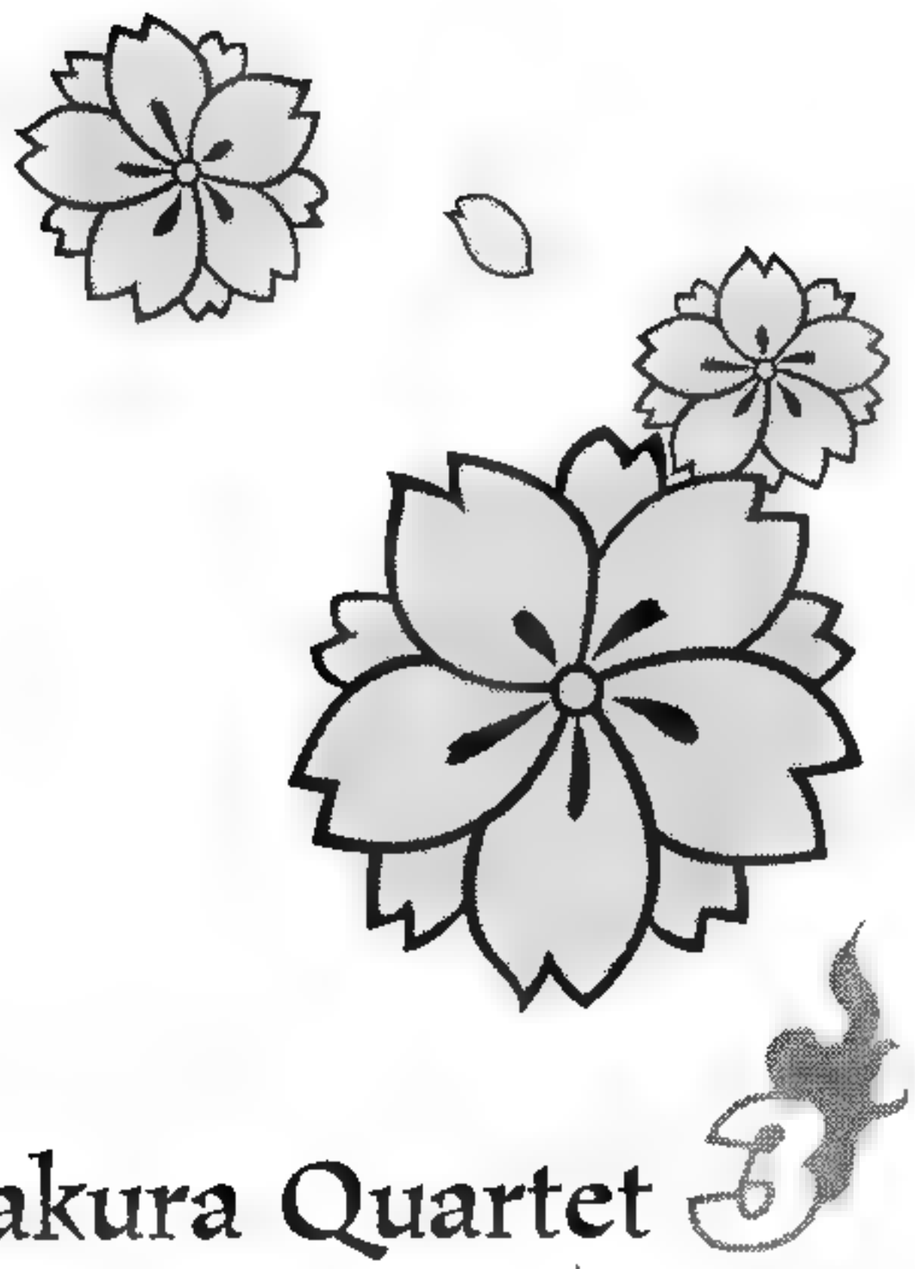
For sure!!

I'm a...

...kotodama user!!

It's going to hit!!

BOOM



Yozakura Quartet

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet



Shidou Mizuki

-san

Age: 28

Hobbies:
Gardening

Favorites

Food:
Meaty things

Music Group:
Baker Brothers

Comedian:
Kamaitachi

Uchi-P Member:
Sekiya

Little-Known Fact:
He is a heavy drinker.

If I say it's going to hit...

...it will!!

BOOM

It's going off course!!

なに!?

NO WAY!!

Whaaaat?!

Hey!

What?!

VOOOOSH

WHIRRR

A gust of wind?

!!

WHIRRR

Now what?

WHIRRR

Whoa!

WHIR!

All right!

It's facing the right direction!

YOOOOOOSH

YOOOOSH

YOOOOOOOOSH

?!

What the ...?!

BOOM

HUH?!

. . . . . !

It hit!

And I have gunpowder all over me!

It did?!

Oh.

WOOSH

Yeah!

It worked!!

VOOOOSH

I'll catch up later!

Oh no! I can't stop!!

Yeah!

Wait.

It's gone!

The barrier's gone!

WOOOOOOSH

That wind...

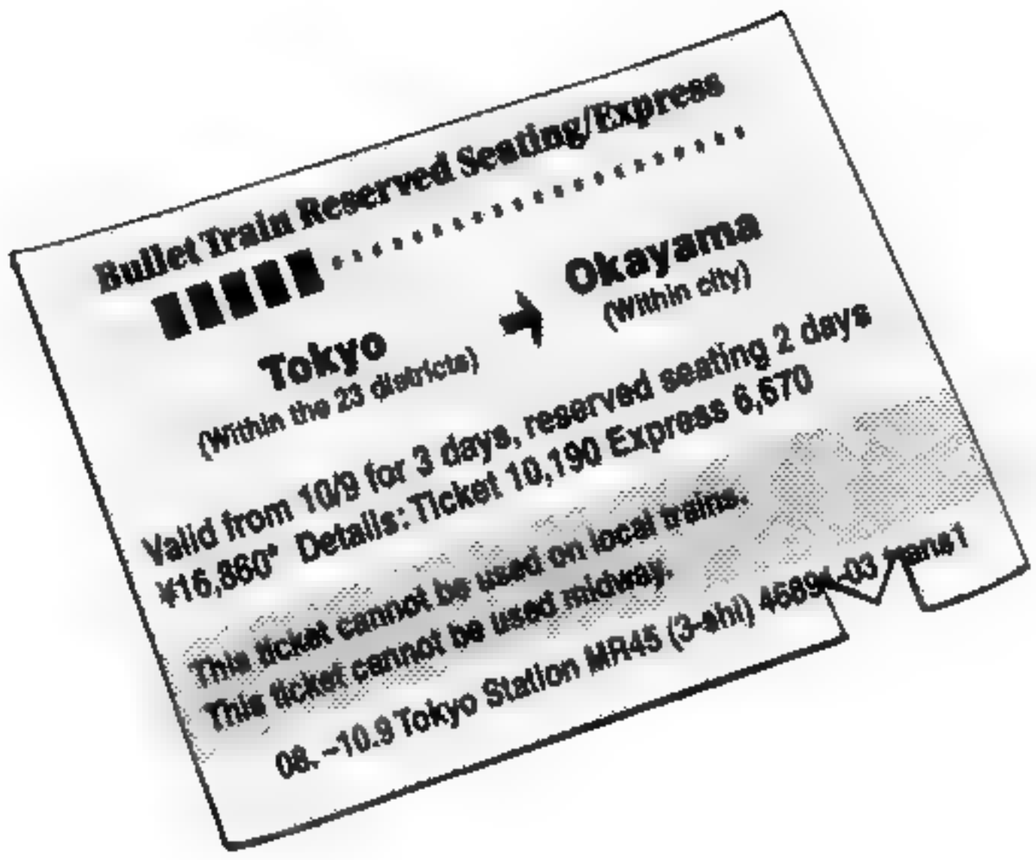
.....

I'M SO sleepy.

They owe me now.

BRUSH BRUSH

SQUIRT


Bullet Train Reserved Seating/Express
Tokyo
(Within the 23 districts)
Okayama
(Within city)
Valid from 10/9 for 3 days, reserved seating 2 days
¥16,860* Details: Ticket 10,190 Express 6,670
This ticket cannot be used on local trains.
This ticket cannot be used midway.
08.-10.9 Tokyo Station MR45 (3-shi) 45894-03 Yens1

16th Night: Thorny Road (Part 6)

*equals approx. $169

Juri-san!

Juri-san.

Okay.

Can I have one?

Bento! Bento!

The station bento!

I'm glad you're enjoying the bento, but don't forget the original purpose of this trip.

MUNCH

MUNCH MUNCH

I know, Juri-san!

RRRRRR

This is my first job as a mayor-to-be.

I won't mess it up!

My duty is to help demons by inviting them to live in our town!

ズゥン

THUD

THUD

THUD

HUH?

ピ

SLAM!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

And it's been exactly an hour.

Oh.

I wonder if the barrier is gone?

WHOOSH

...

...

Oh yeah.

I don't think Akina-kun had his checkup this month.

I'm always on your side, Hime-chan.

I'll heal you anytime.

Good luck.

THUMP

I guess I should prepare for it.

THUMP

These beds are for patients.

But I should take a nap first.

Zzzz

VROOM

WOOSH

SCREECH

CLICK

Here is fine.

Thanks, Shidou-san.

I want you to protect them.

But—

I'd rather have you stay.

No.

I think I should go with you.

Akina-san!

!

Please protect these guys. They fought hard for the city.

.....

Okay.

I can leave them with only you.

ZWISH

TA-DAH

There you guys are.

You shouldn't make an old man like me wait so long.

I'M enough!

I'll kick all of your asses.

HM.

I guess you don't have anyone left to fight.

STOP

ヒュッ

THROW

ズ

TUG

ズ…!

THUD

Save your tough talk...

...until after you get past them.

SLICE

Damn!

VWOOSH

THUNK

THUNK

THUNK

Whoa.

Tuning!!

FLASH

FOOSH

Akina-san!

OW!

WHACK

.....

Gah.

That hurt.

.....

Oh no.

What should we do?

ZISH

SST

Hey.

Get the ones in the car.

Yes, sir.

GRAB

SQUEEZE

!

SQUEEEEZE

...I don't know if I'll be able to restrain myself.

Please don't.

If something happens to them...

Heh.

You shouldn't do that.

.....

...you band together, you can't defeat him.

Even if...

Anyway...

Does he know me?

Do it.

...just focus on him. Then the Mayor will give up.

Urgh!

.....!

.....?

What's this music?

It's to the west of Sangen-jaya!

Could it be...?

The express train doesn't stop here!

Hm.

Gotta respect an enemy who takes a moment to put on a show.

But why don't you take your time?

Hime?! I thought you were injured!

Tsun tsun dere tsun

Dere tsun tsun

Tsun tsun dere tsun

But—

Dere tsun tsun

TA-DAH!

I got better!

WHIRRRR

It's right off...

...the freeway.

You're a tough cookie.

Hmph.

Up

JUMP

I've always wanted to do this.

I'm saying this for your sake. And turn that music off!

BRIGHT

CLICK

カチ

But going to sleep early...

.....

You should've stayed in bed! You won't be able to fight!

You're willing to die?!

The stores close at 9 P.M.

You're not okay at all!

HEE HEE

I just tripped, that's all.

Aaaggh!

WOOSH

SPLAT

.....

Sheesh

.....

You're crazy, you know that?

...I've changed my mind!

STOP

DASH

I was going to forgive you as long as we got Kohime back.

CLANG

Hime!

How dare you mess around in my town?

But...

STOP

SWING

WOOSH

THUD

...!

Urgh.

Stay out of this!

As long as there's no barrier, you guys are—

SWING

GRAB

WHACK

WHACK

Ugh.

Unfortunately,

you're not the only one who had his power weakened.

Huh?

Eep!

KA-POW!

!!

DASH

Hime!

CRASH

Ah...

Akina!

Ouch.

That totally hurt.

Oh no!

Brother!

Brother, wake up!

Please!

PINCH

PINCH

PINCH

HUFF.

HUFF.

DAAAAAAAASH

DAAAAASH

Just hurry!

Big bro!

My feet hurt!

DAAAASH

That's right.

Wait! We're not going to hurt you!

Go home!

Go home! We don't need your help or your protection!

DAAAAASH

Shut up!

DAAAAASH

...

RIP

WHAP

Ouch!

I'm the one who's going to protect you!

It's going to be the same no matter where we go.

Brother.

!

WOOSH!

SLAP

You're going to protect her?! You're not protecting her now!

Are you okay?

I'll take care of it.

What the……?!

KONK

OUCH!

People learn to protect others only after they are protected!

Until the day comes when you can protect your sister, we'll protect you!

So come to our town!

You didn't have to tell him that much.

……

Well, that's what my grandmother said.

Urgh.

Everyone discriminated against us because we're demons. No one's ever said anything like that.

Urgh.

Then, it's settled.

Welcome to Sakurashin Town!

Big brother.

Wake up! Come on!

PINCH

PINCH

Brother!

Urgh.

But—

No!

TUG

Maybe I should go.

No!

GRAB

You can't go up against that type of enemy.

So just stay here.

Err.

SOB

...!

BONK

Wake up!

Brother, wake up! Please!

ばちん SLAP

ばちん SLAP

Urgh!

WOOSH

I thought you would protect me!

Wake up, Brother!

I thought you would protect all of us!!

TWITCH

It's over.

THUD

Urgh!

GRIP

THUD

CREAK ゴ

!...

Huh?

A secretary?

I don't need one.

It's busy, but I can get by.

You like to study. You should go to college.

I'll study on my own.

If you get busy, it's going to be tough to protect Touka.

I can do it.

Ever since I came to this town...

...I've needed to protect so much more.

RRRUMMMBBLLLEEEEE

Grr.

Your powers were weakened?

LIFT

GGRRRIP

What a coincidence.

Me, too.

16th Night: Thorny Road (Part 6) END

Yozakura Quartet 3

Yozakura Quartet

Sakurashin Town Song

Music and lyrics by Hime Yarizakura

Old streets, main streets, we
have lots of streets
The buildings here may
be low
But you can see the sky more
clearly
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere
tsun tsun
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere
tsun tsun
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere
tsun tsun
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere
tsun tsun

It's right off the freeway
The stores close at 9 P.M.
But sleeping early and
waking up early is good for
your health
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere
tsun tsun
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere
tsun tsun

It's to the west of
Sangen-jaya
The express train doesn't
stop here
But why don't you take
your time?
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere
tsun tsun
Tsun tsun dere tsun dere
tsun tsun



ラ"

ラ"

ラ" RRUMMBBBLLLEE

ラ"

ラ" RRUMMBBBLLLEE

ラ"

Kyosuke.

Thanks.

WIDE

WIDE

Use this.

It's clean.

SST

It's good.

MUNCH MUNCH

Hime-sama.

What's going on with your pocket?!

Have a riceball.

I'm too hungry to fight.

FUMBLE PLOP

You too.

Oh, thanks.

How many do you have?

PLOP

A mayor always needs to look good.

FIXTEN

You should fix your collar.

GULP

I—I know!

PULL

URG...

17th Night
Thorny Road
(Part 7)

ゴ"
ゴ"
ゴ" RRRUMMMBBLLEEE
. . .
!
My high school uniform is my fighting costume!
WOOSH
I'm ready to fight!
ピ゜ ZIP
Okay.
Because she got gunpowder on her clothes.
ゴ"
RRRUMBBBLLLEE
The earth is rumbling?
RRRUMBBBLLLEE
ゴ"
An earthquake?
No.
What's that?
CRACK

Well.

CRACK

But what to do?

Things are looking up for us now.

I think.

SQUEEZE

Heh heh.

VOOSH

Very well.

CRACKLE

FLASH

SST Z...

I guess you want more fun.

Z!

!

FLASH

What?

RRUMMBBLLLEEE

RRUMMBBLLLEEE

RRUMMBBLLLEEE

RRUMMBBLLLEEE

. . . . . .

Hey, Akina!!

RRRRUWWBBLLEEEE

RRRRUWWBBLLEEEE

No way.

He couldn't have. Or, did he?

He "dropped" all...

...those things?!

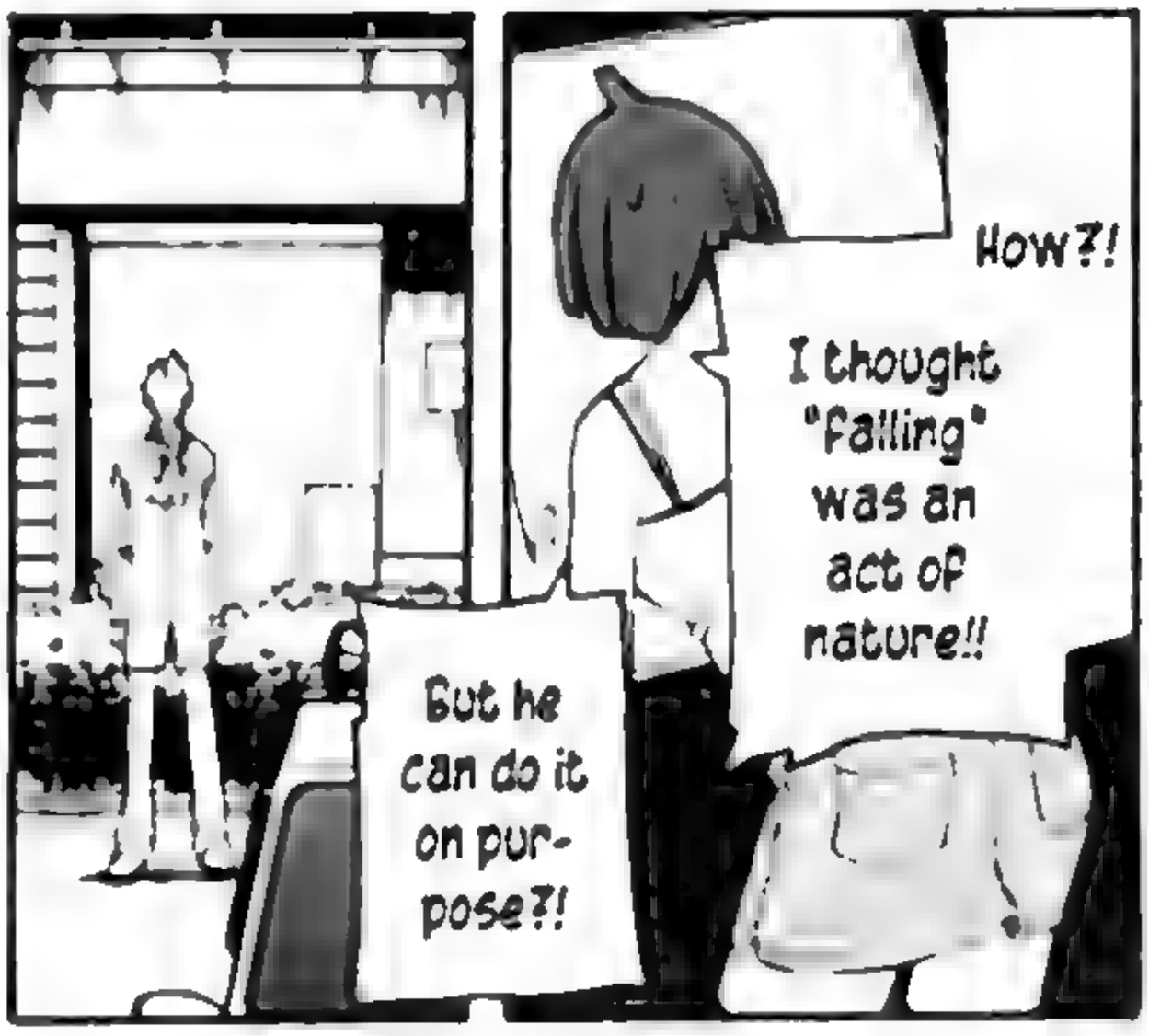
RRUMMBBLLE

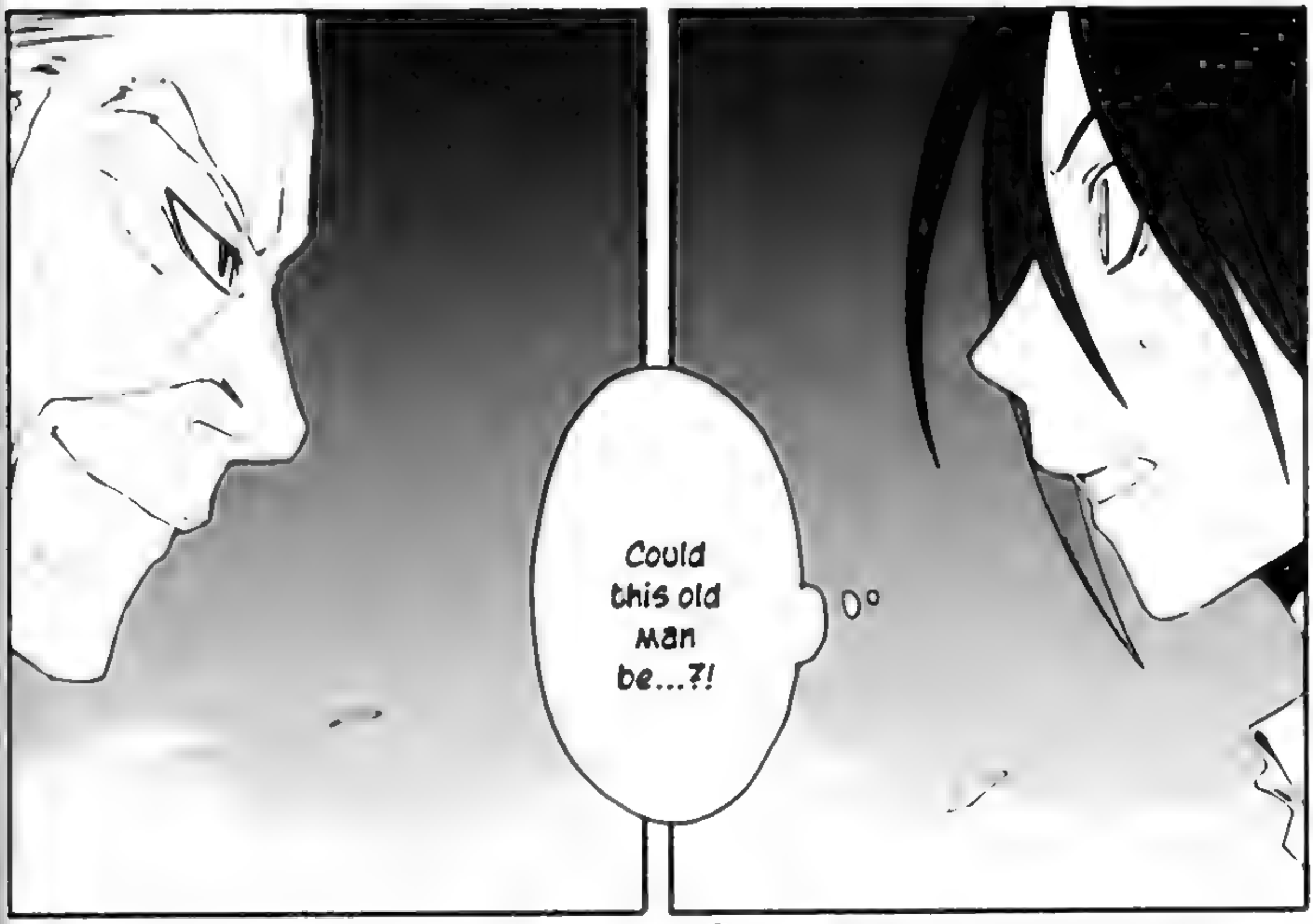
RRUMMBBLLE

RRUMMBBLLE

RRUMMBBLLE


...!


But he can do it on purpose?!
How?!
I thought "falling" was an act of nature!!


Could this old man be...?!


Yes?
Kyosuke!!
Oh well.

CRACK

How many can you take?

GRIP

Maybe three?

Fine.

I'll take four!!

I could take on at least one by tuning it.

WOOSH

No, stay back.

But...

Juri-san told me about the side effects of tuning.

You've done it too much already today.

Just leave the work to us.

That's right.

.....

What's wrong?

SCRATCH

SCRATCH

What are you saying?

I can't be useless at a time like this.

I run an office to help demons, and now I can't do anything?

And besides, Akina...

Demons and humans...

We live together peacefully. That means each one does what they can do best.

You heard Juri-san. "Do what you can."

...you support us demons more than you know.

So just leave this to us.

He's right.

You know...

Leave my grin alone!

What?! What's that supposed to mean?!

GRUMPY

What you do best is make food or clean with a stupid grin on your face.

...

...

...the...

...food you make is good.

Really good.

Hime.

Huh?

When...

Sheesh.

It's unraveling.

Gargh?!

SQUEEZE

Oh, sorry.

What is it?

Your scarf was loose.

Real sorry.

...every-thing's over,

I'll mend your scarf.

So finish this up without getting hurt.

I'm leaving it to you.

TUG

.....

NIMBLE

NIMBLE

Are you really going to fix it?

I couldn't ask until now.

You should've asked.

Huh? Of course.

Okay.

ZISH

BEAMING

Then...

TA-DAH

...let's get this over with!!

Oh! If I use that...

But...

!

Even if I can't partici-pate...

...I'M sure I can do some-thing...

POKE

...how do I move it?

Whoa!

WOOSH

SILENCE

?

Where did he go?

.....

...?

STOMP

Phew.

THUD

VOOSH

ZISH

I could've taken care of one more.

Me either.

SWING

FLASH

Then I shall give you more.

SST

You're next.

Hee hee.

SWING

RRRUMMMBBLLLEEE

Hey!

RRUMMBBLLLEE

RRUMMBBLLLEE

RRUMMBBLLLEE

RRUMMBBLLLEE

This never ends!

...!

GRIP

SST

Ready?

Could that old man be...?

WHACK

Go!!

CLICK

Huh?!

WOW!

Yeah!

Feel the wrath of my mechanical arm!!

What?!

That's amaz-ing.

Good job!

KLUNK

KLUNK

Hmph! I would never!

Why didn't you two evacuate?!

TENZAKI POTTERY

BONK

Hey, stop that!

. . . . . .

Ow!!

Urgh.

You got a problem with that?!

I can't rely on you, that's why!!

Stop! My master-pieces!

!

It's dangerous!

Hey. Crush the store.

Foolish.

GRIP

DASH

Er!

KA-POW

. . . . . !!

What are you doing?

Hurry up and crush it!

Oh.

POW

Rrgghh.

POW

POW

KA-POW

KA-POW

Urrrgghhh.

POW

POW

Urgh.

You ask why?

You don't have to do this!

POW

Why?

Why are you doing this?

POW

What's wrong with the mayor...

...protecting her own town?!

.....!!

POW

.....

POW

はっ GASP

POW

POW

RIP

POW

RIP

POW

POW

POW

POW

POW

I told you I'M protecting this town!

...that scarf important to you?!

Hey.

Wasn't...

...abso-lutely will lose!

Urggh.

POW

I'M the Mayor! Sorry, Akina, but if I have to choose between the town or this scarf...

...this scarf...

POW

OPEN

Shut up!!

Hey! Give that to me.

I can't stand it any-more!!

Er!

ZUSST

WOOSH

KA-BOOM

BEEP

Huh?

BURN

BURN

BURN

Whaaa

...sing?

...inside of me.

!

ゴゴゴ

Otherwise known as the dragon force!!

Your grand-mother left me to care for it! Take it!!

From my grand-mother...

.....!!

VWOOSH

RRUMMMBBLLEE

Loved by the town.

GGGRIP

RRUMMMBBLLEE

GRIP

.....

Be loved by the towns-people.

RRUMMMBBLLEE

RRUMMMBBLLEE

Take it?

ZISH

Thank you, Grandma.

I never forgot what you told me.

RRUMMMBBLLEE

ZISH

And loved by the dragon!!

CRACKLE

Get her.

Now!

ゴ

...is the real Dragon Spear.

This...

ゴ

ARRUMMBBLLEEE

ゴ

ARRUMMBBLLEEE

ゴ

Himesama.

Don't worry.

Sixth Formation...

ゴ

SWING

ゴ

ARRUMMBBLLEE

ゴ

YOOSH

"Kirin!!"

THUD

Twish

Seventy-first formation...

"Chidori!!"

THUD

Give it to them!!

The last formation!!

HMM.

Great
Fireworks!!

THUD

And they called it...

WOOSH

The gods answered the angered earth...

...and roared in the name of wrath.

...Dragon Spear, "Sakanade!"

BOOM

17th Night: Thorny Road (Part 7) END

This would be a horrible Dragon Spear Formation!



You don't even need the spear.

One hundred ninth formation... "Warai Meshi."

BLINK

Huh?

Where am I?

Are you awake?

Didn't you bring me here because you were worried?

Huh?

PHEW

Oh, the owner's daugh-ter.

It was really hard bringing you here! Sheesh!!

No, I wasn't worried. I mean...

MUMBLE MUMBLE

BUMP

Huh?

DROOL

Whoops.

Aaaagh!!

YAWN

YAWN

I was hiding so that I could wait for students (girls). And then I got sleepy.

Just do your job!!

Why are you sleeping here?

You scared us!

Sorry, sorry.

Does that mean I can do anything to you?

No!!

BUMP

Sheesh! I got tired from carrying him all this way, so I'll sleep here!!

Huh?

Bump?

Huh?

Shoot, you found me.

Oh no.

TA-DAH

Aaaaghh!!

There's someone else here!!

I was waiting, too.

They're so immature!!

SHOCK

Go ahead.

Maybe I can change the story like this...

WRITE かき

WRITE かき

Yozakura Quartet









First appearance: July 2007 Monthly Sirius
2nd Anniversary Celebration Bonus!

The title of this was "Roach."

Bonus Manga

Thank you very much!

Once again, I included a weird bonus manga plus that afterword manga.

Hello. Thank you for buying *Yozakura Quartet* volume 3!

So, anyway...

Freeway

I was only kidding!

I worked hard in this volume!

What about me?!

Don't bite!

SHOCK

...Akina.

Huh? Me?

THTHUMP THTHUMP

This time joining me is...

Take that!

Finished 17th Night

Mid-June

To make it easy, I'll use volume 3 as an example. (Released 9/21)

I see.

Last time I talked about how *Yozakura* is made each month. This time, I'll talk about how a collected volume is made.

Ramen House "Tom-chan Ramen"

Spicy Scallion Ramen (available only for dinner) It's really good.

Yeah.

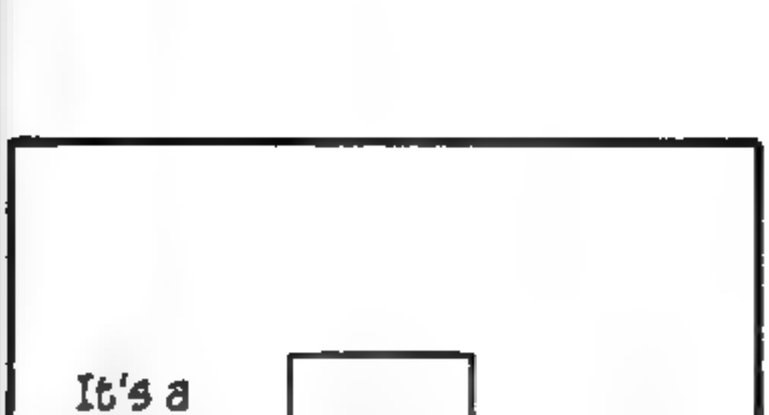
It's volume 3.

SLURP SLURP

It's a blueprint of what goes on what page.

Pagination

First, I do...

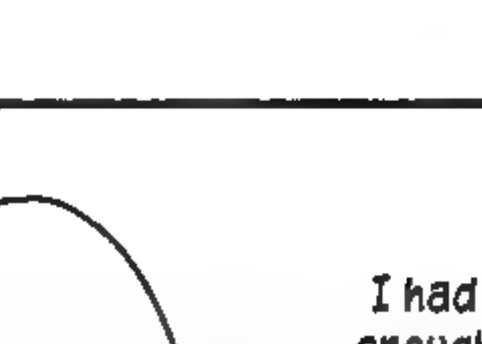


Sorry to those who read the Maga-zine.

And I had to work on the calender and the extra covers for the magazine, so it took a month.

This is the hard part that keeps me really busy.

I had enough stories to put in volume 3, so I start working to put it together.



But I thought cutting it off with the Dragon Spear would be better. But my editor said...

I had enough pages to make a complete volume by the end of the chapter where Kyosuke comes back.

This time, we argued about...

...these two.

2. cutting it off when Hime gets the Dragon Spear.

1. cutting it off where Kyosuke comes back!



Beginning of July

Once I set the pagination, I look at the amount of Pixes I have to make and take a break from working on the monotone pages.

The pages that need Pixes have Post-its on it.



I hope.

I think it made for a better reading experience overall.

But I promised that I'd draw more pages monthly and release a volume every five months. So, I got my way this time.

He's right.

You need to pump those volumes out and sell, sell, sell!



...and finally started on the volume-making process for real.

Good luck.

SQUEEZE

After that, I worked on 18th Night until Mid-August...

I Finished.

End of July

It's fun working on the cover.

As they were needed for advertising, I started working on the cover and the calendar.

I make fewer errors in this area now.

And I fix any text that was weird in the magazine.

"Why?" ←"How come?" and so forth.

The errors stand out at this point.

If the panels don't connect well, I'll fix an entire page.

I fix character positions, add screen tones, and add backgrounds.

Fixes

It's my book, so I like to play with it as much as I can.

But I don't get paid for this.

I see.

So I know how.

Because I used to work at an advertising agency.

Why are you working on it?

I used to make flyers and such.

Hey.

I work on the cover design at the same time.

I Forgot.

De-sign?

It's better than the usual manga I have to do. But it's hard to add an extra ten pages while I'm working on the main manga every month.

Millimeter tip pen—makes the most of it

What? This is difficult?!

...is the bonus manga and the afterword manga.

All the text is written by hand.

What's really difficult...

?

Bonus Manga

A few days later

RRRING

Mid-September

I'll finish it somehow.

Take that!

That's tough.

Of course, I start on 19th Night without a break.

End of August

Then I put the manga together and turn it in.

Finally!

YEAH!

I got a copy!

The volume is done!!

Good job!

EDITOR

Around September 18th

BBQ Place

Did you bring it?

Yeah.

EXCITED

わくわく

EDITOR

FUMBLE FUMBLE

EDITOR

I'll meet you at the BBQ place.

Okay.

By the way, to celebrate volume 3...

Well, I guess it's not worth polish-ing.

So that's how a volume is made. I always write this, but please forgive any errors you see in this afterword manga.

I hardly get a break.

That was a dream?!

That's what should happen.

Because I'M still writing this.

BLUNTLY

You need to plan more.

Please order it if you can.

And I'll be releasing a calendar. The deadline for this is coming up soon.

Information on the website.

That's too soon, isn't it?

It's going to be on September 30th. Details are on the Sirius website!

Sorry to those reading this after the date.

www.sirius.kodansha.co.jp

Seriously?!

I'M doing a book signing!

First!

...I have a few announce-ments!

I'M tired.

Now...

The last parts were rushed. I'll see you later!

I hope to see you in the next volume!

Bye-bye!

And in the November issue of Sirius, I'll have an extra cover as a bonus.

I'M wearing a Chinese outfit!

Please check it out!

It's coming up soon!

I take in all of the criticism, advice, etc.

Thank you

I've looked at most of them.

I can say I looked at 99% of them.

That's too much!

I wrote in the previous volume that I was going to look at reviews on the Internet.

But I still have more pages, huh?

Huh?

EDITOR

PUNK'D

"I saw volume 2 was out, but I didn't buy it because volume 1 was so boring." (summarized)

Huh? Let me see...

Hey, it looks like you get this comment a lot.

I can't leave comments. But I really do appreciate it.

That's not a good idea!

WHAT?!

...I was originally going to bring them all out in the first chapter.

WHACK

Well...

I guess most people didn't like that you had too many characters popping up all at once.

Actu-ally...

Umm. Cheer up!!

That's all I can think to say!

Sob.

Blanket

"Volume 2 had too many characters and confused me. I'M not buying it anymore."

That feeling.

You build a chronology based on whatever you learn about the past from these people as you meet them.

That feeling.

Your mind doesn't process all the information that these people bring.

That feeling.

Oh, all these people spent every day together before I came here.

For example, when you transfer to a new school...

That's my top priority.

I will appeal to new readers, but I'M working hard so that you readers who've stayed with me can enjoy this until the end.

Like you.

But there are still people who read this!

Well, that and your lack of skills.

But I guess it was a bad idea.

As this is a story about a town with a lot of things that already happened, I thought presenting it like that would be better.

Please read volume 4, too! See you!

Thank you to my assistants Amagi-san, Anri-san, Oishi-san, Kato-san, and my editor Kimura-san, etc., and thank you to all the readers!

My friend told me that he tells others to be patient until the third volume. (I'M not sure how to take that).

So, it's really good-bye for now.

If you see anything that you can praise, please do so.

On your blogs or by e-mail.

So please give me your comments.

Bye!

I bet you there are more pages.

He's not good at taking criticism.


It's
really
over!

About the Author

Suzuhito Yasuda's cute and colorful character designs, sharp linework, and unique design talents have made him a popular artist in the fields of both manga and novel illustration. He has illustrated such Japanese novels as *Kamisama Kazoku*, *Scarlet Sword*, and *Maid Machinegun*. He has also worked on the manga series *Pinky:Comic* and *Ebony & Ivory*; *Yozakura Quartet* is his latest work.

His Preferred Tools:
PowerMAC G4 933Mhz
Apple studio display 17 TFT

PowerMAC G4 Cube
Apple Studío Display 17 CRT

Sony VAIO Notebook PCG542B

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Sakura

Sakura is the Japanese term for cherry blossoms. *Yozakura* in the title refers to *sakura* at night, or viewing *sakura* at night.

Kirin, page 36

Kirin is a comedic duo featuring Akira Kawashima and Hiroshi Tamura. Although their first impressions of each other weren't great, they eventually became good friends and formed their group.

Uchi-P, page 36

Uchi-P is an abbreviated term for *Uchimura Produce*, a TV show featuring comedians doing comedy sketches.

Azu-chan, page 36

Azu-chan is a gravure idol (a Japanese model who primarily poses in bikinis and other provocative clothing for magazine spreads). Her real name is Azusa Yamamoto, but she is known as Azu-chan.

Akiyuki Nosaka, page 66

Akiyuki Nosaka is a Japanese novelist, singer, and politician. He is a former member of the Diet. He also wrote the novel *The Grave of the Fireflies*, a story about a brother and sister trying to survive the war on their own.

Nasu Nakanishi, page 66

Nasu Nakanishi is a comedic duo comprised of Shigeki Nakanishi and Akiyuki Nasu. They are cousins.

Tet-chan, page 66

Tet-chan refers to Tetsuro Degawa, a Japanese comedian and actor. He is known more as a comedian but likes to call himself a "comedic actor." He has a husky voice that is very distinctive.



Hidagyu, page 83

Hidagyu is clearly a fictional character in the world of *Yozakura Quartet*. The name Hidagyu refers to Japanese beef from cattle raised in Hida, a city in the Gifu prefecture. It's fatty and known to be expensive.

Kazuyoshi Nakamura, page 102

Kazuyoshi Nakamura is a musician. Originally inspired by Vincent van Gogh and Marc Chagall, he was pursuing a career in art until he turned fifteen years old. After that, he switched to music to express himself. His works didn't catch on right away, and he had been considering suicide if he didn't succeed.

Dayan, page 102

Dayan is a comedic duo featuring Yusuke Nishizawa and Atsuhiro Tsuda. They were classmates in junior high school. Their group name comes from their foreign English teacher.

Parachute Troop, page 102

Pepe Yano and Yuu Saito comprise the comedic duo Parachute Troop. Their participation in Uchi-P made them popular.

Kamaitachi, page 134

Kamaitachi is a comedic duo featuring Kenji Yamauchi and Ryuichi Hamaie. In their shorter routines, they would end each joke with Yamauchi hitting a gong.

Sekiya, page 134

Sekiya refers to Tsukasa Sekiya, one of the assistant directors on the show.



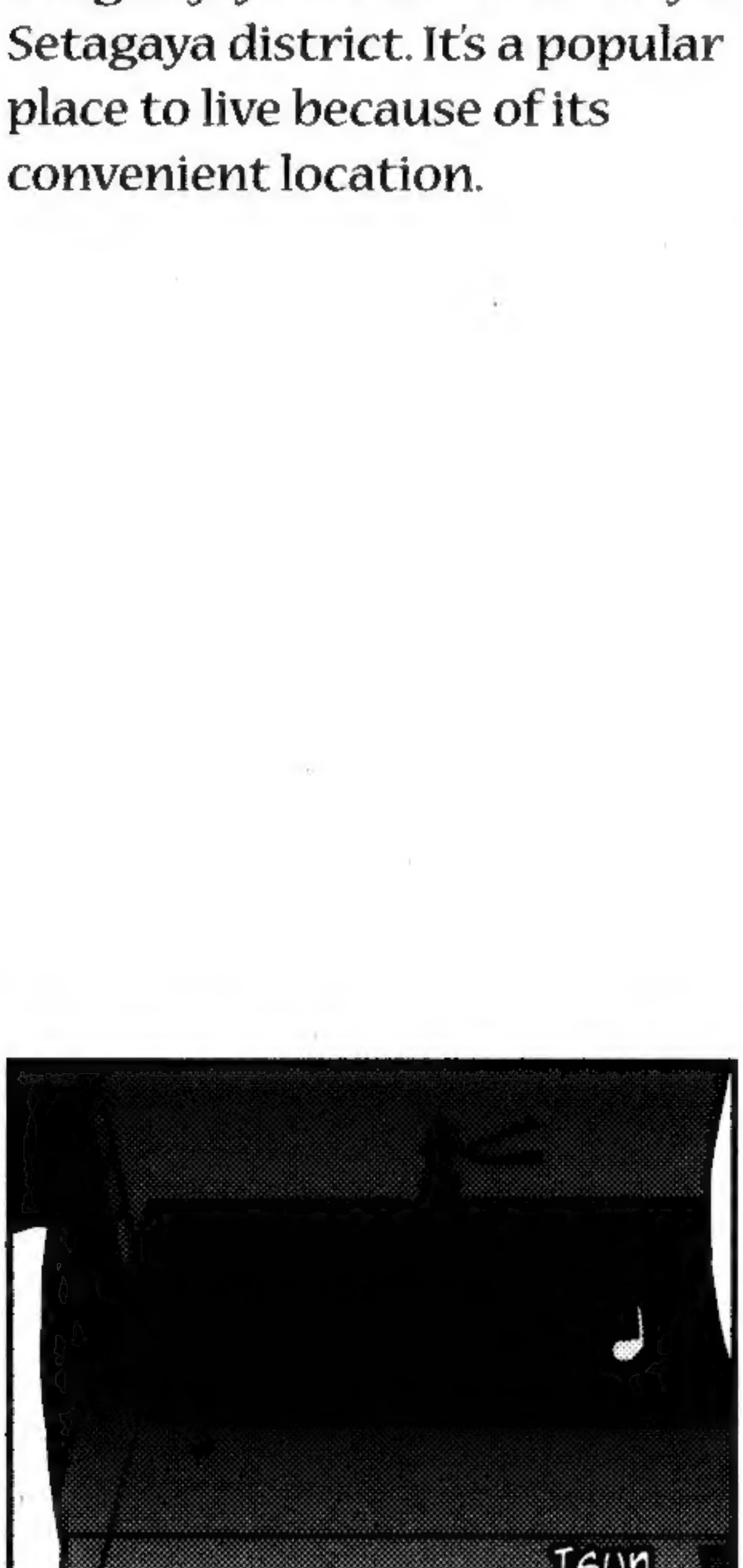
Bento, page 141

Bento means a boxed lunch. Part of the fun of riding a bullet train is eating a station *bento*. There are many kinds of *bento*, and some are available only in specific regions. You can buy them on the train (either in a specific car or a vendor will come by and sell them to you), but there's more variety at the station.

Sangen-jaya, page 153

Sangen-jaya is a town in Tokyo's Setagaya district. It's a popular place to live because of its convenient location.





Tsundere, page 153

Hime is playing the town song "Tsundere," which she was teaching to the kids in volume 1. *Tsundere* is a term for a specific character trait, describing a person who is standoffish or aloof but can become loveable and adorable in different situations. This term first started in Japanese dating simulation games, then moved on to anime and manga, but is now widely used in mass media.



Dragon Spear Formations, page 211

The Dragon Spear Formations introduced in this volume are mostly names of comedic duos introduced in the previous volumes. In *Warai Meshi*, one of the comedians has a mustache similar to the one Hime is putting on.

Weird Text and "Why," page 219

The change depicted here is between two different choices of character usage, both of which translate to "why." As this would not carry over in English, the closest comparison is between "how come" and "why." They have similar definitions and can be used interchangeably, but sometimes one sounds awkward and weird.